



County Government

Workers union (K)

Aluta continua

HEADQUARTERS:

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Date: 9th September, 2026

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

ATTENTION:

- **H.E. William Samoei Ruto** — President of the Republic of Kenya
- **H.E. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr.** — Governor, Makueni County
- **Hon. Dr. Benjamin Kioko KasaMBA** — Chairperson, Makueni County Public Service Board
- **Mr. Douglas Kanja Kirocho** — Inspector-General, National Police Service
- **Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Amin** — Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Kenya

SUBJECT: BRUTAL ATTACK, INTIMIDATION AND ALLEGED ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST CLINICAL OFFICERS DURING A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IN WOTE, MAKUENI COUNTY.

The County Government Workers Union of Kenya (COGWU-K), Makueni Branch, condemns in the strongest possible terms the alleged brutal attack, intimidation, harassment and violence directed at clinical officers and other healthcare workers during their peaceful demonstration in Wote Township on **8th, September 2026**.

We are deeply concerned that workers exercising their constitutional rights to peaceful assembly, picketing, demonstration, collective action and petition were allegedly subjected to violence and intimidation instead of being afforded the protection guaranteed under the Constitution and the laws of Kenya.

The right of workers to raise legitimate grievances concerning their terms and conditions of service is fundamental to a democratic society and must be respected by both national and county governments.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY

COGWU-K notes with serious concern that the Kenya National Union of Nurses (KNUN) and the Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCO) had reportedly notified the relevant security authorities, including the OCS, OCPD and County Police Commander, regarding the planned demonstrations.

Despite these notifications, we are concerned that adequate security was allegedly not provided to protect the demonstrators.

The Union therefore calls for an independent investigation into the conduct and preparedness of the security agencies responsible for maintaining law and order during the demonstration.

We particularly urge the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to independently establish whether there was negligence, failure of duty, collusion or any other misconduct on the part of individual police officers.

ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF AN ORGANIZED GROUP

The Union has received reports and reviewed accounts concerning the alleged involvement of a group locally referred to as **“King’ole, outlawed Militia Gang”** which demonstrators and witnesses reportedly identified at the scene.

According to accounts received by the Union, members of the gang allegedly confronted, pushed, intimidated and verbally abused healthcare workers. There are also allegations that some demonstrators were assaulted and that personal property, including a mobile phone, was allegedly stolen during the confrontation.

The Union has further been informed that members of the gang were allegedly wearing coats, masks armed with broom and were accompanied by a public-address system mounted on a motor vehicle.

These allegations are extremely serious. We therefore call upon the National Police Service and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to urgently establish the identity, organizers, financiers and motives of the individuals involved.

Where criminal wrongdoing is established, the perpetrators must be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

We emphasize that these are allegations requiring impartial investigation, and no individual or institution should be deemed criminally responsible without due process.

WORKERS' RIGHTS MUST BE RESPECTED

It is unacceptable for workers raising legitimate employment grievances to be met with violence, intimidation or threats.

The County Government of Makueni has a constitutional and statutory responsibility to promote fair labour practices, protect the rights of its employees and provide an environment in which workplace disputes can be addressed through dialogue, collective bargaining and established dispute-resolution mechanisms.

The Union therefore calls upon the County Government to immediately engage the affected health workers and their representative unions with a view to resolving the underlying grievances through structured negotiations.

OUR DEMANDS

In view of the foregoing, COGWU-K makes the following demands:

1. Independent investigation into the alleged violence

We demand an immediate and impartial investigation into the events of 8th , September 2026, including the alleged assault, intimidation and robbery of demonstrators.

The investigation should identify the individuals who planned, organized, financed or participated in any unlawful acts.

2. Investigation into the conduct of the Chief Officer

The Union has received allegations concerning the conduct of **Dr. Harvey Mulei Mbithi, Chief Officer for County Health Services, Human Resource and Administration.**

We therefore call upon the Governor and the Makueni County Public Service Board to institute an independent administrative investigation into these allegations and, where appropriate under the applicable law and disciplinary procedures, take interim or disciplinary action.

No adverse finding should be made without affording the officer the right to due process.

3. Action by the National Police Service and DCI

We call upon the Inspector-General of the National Police Service and the Director of Criminal Investigations to deploy an appropriately independent investigative team to establish the circumstances surrounding the alleged violence and intimidation.

The investigation should cover the alleged planners, organizers, financiers and perpetrators.

4. IPOA investigation

We demand that the conduct of the **OCS Makueni Police Station, OCPD Makueni Sub-County and the Makueni County Police Commander** be referred to IPOA for independent examination, particularly concerning the alleged failure to provide adequate security despite prior notification of the demonstrations.

5. Withdrawal of the disputed recruitment advertisement

We call upon the Chairperson of the Makueni County Public Service Board to review and, where found inconsistent with applicable labour laws, collective bargaining arrangements or dispute-resolution processes, withdraw the advertisement dated **4th September 2026**, reportedly issued by the Medical Superintendent, Makindu Sub-County Hospital, concerning recruitment of medics on contract terms.

Recruitment and employment decisions affecting workers must not be used to undermine ongoing labour negotiations or legitimate dispute-resolution mechanisms.

6. Personal condemnation of violence

We call upon **H.E. Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr** to publicly and unequivocally condemn violence against healthcare workers and to cooperate fully with investigations into the events of 8th, September 2026.

We further urge the County Government to ensure that no informal or unauthorized group is permitted to intimidate workers or interfere with lawful public demonstrations.

SEVEN-DAY NOTICE

As representatives of workers in Kenya, **COGWU-K hereby issues a seven (7) day notice** for the above concerns and demands to be addressed through lawful and meaningful action.

Should there be no satisfactory response within the seven-day period, the Union reserves the right to mobilize its members and pursue lawful industrial action in solidarity with the affected healthcare workers, subject to the Constitution, applicable labour laws and established dispute-resolution procedures.

The Union represents thousands of workers within the county establishment, and we shall continue to use lawful and constitutional avenues to defend workers' rights and dignity.

We also call upon the people of Makueni and Kenyans at large to support the constitutional rights of workers and demand accountability through lawful and peaceful means.

OUR COMMITMENT

COGWU-K remains committed to peaceful engagement, collective bargaining, social dialogue and lawful industrial action.

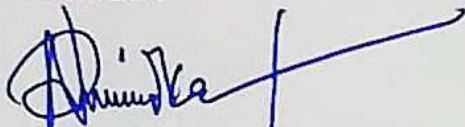
We shall not be intimidated from defending the rights, dignity and welfare of workers.

We urge all parties to exercise restraint and avoid further escalation while the relevant authorities undertake investigations and engage the affected unions.

The Government of Makueni County Workers deserve respect, dignity, security and fair treatment.

ALUTA CONTINUA — COMRADES' POWER!

SIGNED:



Cllr. JOHN N. SILA

Branch Secretary

County Government Workers Union of Kenya (COGWU-K), Makueni Branch

COPIED TO:

- 1) **Brother Francis Atwoli** — Secretary-General, COTU (K)
- 2) **Hon. Roba Duba** — General Secretary, COGWU-K
- 3) **Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)**
- 4) **Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC)**
- 5) **Coalition of Kenya Human Rights Defenders**
- 6) **Office of the Ombudsman / Commission on Administrative Justice**
- 7) **All media houses and news agencies**